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IRMA-042H

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21 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR : The Special Group

SUBJECT : Proposal to Unground Project IDEALIST U-2 Detachment,
Adana, Turkey

1. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

a. Since 20 August 1950, U-2 aircraft have been continuously positioned at Incirlik Air Base, Adana, Turkey. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Detachment consisted of four U-2 aircraft and approximately [REDACTED] personnel made up of [REDACTED] contract pilots, and technical representatives.

b. Covert aerial reconnaissance was conducted successfully from this base during the period 11 September 1950 to 1 May 1951. All flights of U-2's from Incirlik Air Base ceased as of 1 May 1951 as a result of the May First Incident, and not even local flights of U-2's have been conducted since that date. As a result, the exact status of the capability has not been subject to the test of actual operation. This is considered to be an unsatisfactory

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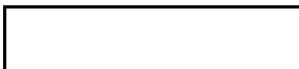
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situation in view of the ever present possibility that a political flare-up
in an area within reach of Adana based U-2's would find our assets unprepared. 25X1C



2. In August 1960 steps were taken by CIA to reduce the number of
aircraft and personnel in place in the Adana Detachment to a minimum holding
force and a single U-2 aircraft, whose sole purpose was to maintain the fran-
chise and to offer a contingency capability should world conditions dictate.
By January 1961 the unit was reduced to a total of [] individuals, of whom 25X1A

[] personnel and the balance were command and sup-
port types, including [] Lockheed technical representatives who remained to
service the aircraft left in place. The unit is headed by []



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2. PROPOSAL:

A.

it is proposed that as a first step in re-establishing the operational readiness of the Adana U-2 unit, a low key program of local, low level flights be instituted by the Detachment without delay, utilizing a civilian pilot flown in for this purpose from the United States. This program involves two phases: the first would be routine maintenance test flights at local low altitudes over a five to ten-day period. The second phase would be training missions within altitude and area restrictions prescribed by Turkey. Individual flights would be cleared in advance by CIA Headquarters until the training pattern of phase two was established as routine. Turkish reaction to each flight, including press comment if any, would be observed during both phases of the program.

3. The cover story that would accompany this ungrounding should information be required other than a statement that these were routine maintenance test flights would be as follows:

The U-2 stationed at Adana is being flight tested

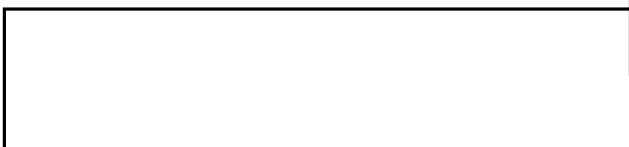
The aircraft has previously been on standby for this contingency but has not been flown. Initial test flights will

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include pilot proficiency missions (local, low level), ACA
exercises, and touch and go landings. The second phase will
include flights within the altitude and area restrictions
prescribed by the Turkish Government.

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C. If there were to be no adverse local reaction to resumption of
flying in the manner proposed, it would be assumed that a full technical
capability had been re-established, after which point the U-2 Detachment
would be kept at little more than its present strength as an active asset
in being for any contingencies that might arise. Subsequently, specific
proposals for covert aerial reconnaissance or ELINT collection using the
U-2 aircraft at [] would be made to the Special Group as dictated by
world conditions, and if these proposals were then approved, a full main-
tenance and operating capability would be staged into Incirlik Air Base
to accomplish the operational mission.

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